

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I too would like to add my voice in appreciation as a member of this chamber for the leadership from the committee in terms of making sure that the United States' leadership in the area of information technology will be assured with the enactment of this legislation. This is an important step in the right direction.

I wanted to reference simply two points that are of special interest to me.

I appreciate the language in this legislation that would require the study of the encryption technologies that are available in foreign countries. I have often been concerned that our encryption policy in the United States in terms of export restrictions verged on the ludicrous.

We were in danger having the potential of some Gameboy platforms running athwart our restrictions until recently by action of the administration. And having a rational study of what is available overseas, compare that to what is available here, trying to make this something that makes sense in the broader world stage is important, I think, for our constituents who are engaged ultimately in ways to make sure that we have maximum benefit of encryption technology in the United States and we do not put American companies at a disadvantage.

Second, I appreciate and applaud the leadership of this committee trying to focus the need on having permanent research and development tax credit. This is something that makes a huge difference to industry in the long term looking over the long haul, something that industry can use to be able to make its research and development decisions.

I hope that the legislative leadership in both Chambers will take seriously the message that has been delivered by the committee to make sure that this is made permanent so that industry can count upon it.

I look forward to having a clean vote on this item before we adjourn. I think it would be overwhelmingly approved, it would be an important signal for our industry, and I think it is something that we no longer need to delay.